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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT

TOPIC Laerz Airfield.

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 October 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

50X1-HUM

1. On 29 August, a total of 26 MiG-15s, 2 single-engine planes, and 2 biplanes was observed at Laerz airfield from its western and eastern borders. Additional planes may have been parked on the southern edge of the field. There was no flying between 5 a.m. and 4 p.m. Trucks [redacted] left 50X1-HUM the field. (1) The spur track was vacant. No aircraft crates were seen on the western edge of the installation. A radio installation was located about 600 meters east of the end of the runway. (2)
2. On 5 June [redacted] 22 jet aircraft were being packed in air- 50X1-HUM craft crates at the western section of the field. [redacted] (3) [redacted] the crates had been shipped toward Mirow in the afternoon of the same day. On the evening of 11 June, the packing of 12 to 15 jet planes was again observed at the same place. [redacted] the air- 50X1-HUM craft crates were loaded on flatcars which left on the morning of 12 June 1951. During packing the following details were observed: the aircraft were towed by trucks with a rope about 4 meters long which was fastened in line with the nose wheel. The wings were first disassembled and placed inside the crates by 4 or 5 men. The rudder was then disassembled and also placed into the crate. The fuselage, tail first, was then slid into the crate together with wooden trestles. The front of the crate was then nailed. The packing of one plane took about one hour. On 13 June, a train loaded with aircraft crates arrived at the field. The exact number of crates could not be determined, but [redacted] jet planes were 50X1-HUM being unpacked.
3. About 0130 a.m. on 11 August, 28 swept-back jet aircraft were parked on the northeastern edge of the field. An additional 20 to 25 jet aircraft covered with tarpaulins were on the western edge of the field. An undetermined number of aircraft was parked east of the flight control building. (1)

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4. The personnel of the field were quartered in the barracks buildings in Rechlin. There were no changes in the occupation of the barracks buildings. In addition to air force personnel soldiers wearing black-bordered claret and red-bordered black epaulets with motor vehicle insignia were also quartered there. In mid-July, parachuting was practiced over the Sprotschen hills. A twin-engine DC-3 took off from Laerz airfield. Twelve men jumped from the left door of the plane from an altitude of 500 to 700 meters. After the jumps the personnel were trucked to the airfield. These practices were repeated for three successive days. (5) On 26 August, the Dumbo type radar set was still located in Rechlin. (6) Another mobile radar set was erected about 200 meters northwest of Millerholz railroad station. (7)
5. On 3 September, 4 MiG-15s, 5 single-engine low-wing monoplanes, and 5 biplanes were observed at the field. The radio installation with four masts, previously located north of the western end of the runway, was being dismantled. On 5 September, the field was occupied by 10 MiG-15s, 4 single-engine low-wing monoplanes, 3 biplanes, and 3 to 10 aircraft of an undetermined type. Twenty MiG-15s, which were camouflaged with tarpaulins and bushes, were parked south of the west end of the runway. A dummy wooded area was set up in a 200-meter square about 350 meters north-northeast of the flight control building to camouflage the field. (8) Groups of motor vehicles which were camouflaged by brush were observed on both ends of the runway.
6. A passenger train with two boxcars loaded with air force personnel arrived in Rechlin at 7:56 a.m. on 10 September. The personnel detrained on the spur track of the airfield. [redacted] between 7 and 15 Sep- 50X1-HUM
 tember the personnel from Rechlin arrived in Laerz by rail and not by truck as was observed previously. The field was occupied by 24 MiG-15s, some single-engine planes, and 2 biplanes. In addition 15 MiG-15s were estimated to be stationed there. After 7 September, no flights were made during the daytime but there was intensive flying at night. The dummy wooded area observed on 5 September was removed, the camouflaged vehicles had left, and the camouflaged MiG-15s previously parked on the western end of the runway were not there.
- Comments. 50X1-HUM
- (1) The number of aircraft observed does not indicate the present occupation of the airfield. [redacted] two fighter regiments are stationed in Laerz. The exact number of MiG-15s is not known but is estimated at about 70. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- (2) The inner landing beacon. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- (3) [redacted] The reason for shipping of aircraft is not known. It is possible that the planes had to be overhauled and, therefore, were replaced by new aircraft. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- (4) [redacted]
- (5) Parachuting was probably practiced by the flying personnel of one of the two fighter regiments. No parachute unit is stationed in Laerz.
- (6) The set belongs to the fighter division headquarters.
- (7) This radar set is a RUS-2 type. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- (8) No details on the dummy wooded area were reported [redacted] No information on similar dummy installations has been reported from other airfields. The dummy wooded area was probably set up for an exercise.

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